

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02 PRS-01
/116 W

-----230301Z 067720 /22

R 221302Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5825

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS:ENRG, IS
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PROGRAM

REF:STAT 90458

1. REPORTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PROGRAM APPEARED IN ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ON APRIL 22, BUT EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS SO FAR BEEN LIMITED. BASED UPON THE COMMENTARY TO APPEAR SO FAR, THE PRESS SEEMS GLAD THAT THE USG IS TAKING STEPS "TO LIMIT ITS VULNERABILITY TO OIL BLACKMAIL," BUT IS CONCERNED THAT ISRAEL MAY ULTIMATELY BE LOOKED UPON BY THE U.S. AS AN "OBSTACLE" IN COPING WITH ITS ENERGY PROBLEMS.

2. DAVAR BELIEVES THE PRESIDENT'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS PROOF THAT THE ENERGY PROBLEM HAS DEEPER ROOTS THAN THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, AND IS NOT EVEN NECESSARILY LINKED TO IT. BUT, GROWING U.S. DEPENDENCE ON ARAB OIL WILL BECOME A SERIOUS THREAT TO ISRAEL. IT IS THEREFORE NATURAL THAT ISRAEL AND ITS FRIENDS ARE ANXIOUS THAT THE PRESIDENT SUCCEED IN DECREASING U.S. OIL DEPENDENCE. THE PRESENCE OF LEADING JEWISH FIGURES AMONG THE WHITE
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HOUSE ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOWS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION EXPECTS AMERICAN JEWRY TO LEND ITS STRONG SUPPORT TO THE ENERGY PROGRAM.

3. COLLUMINIST MARCUS OF HAARETZ STATES THAT IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY POSSIBLE TO FIND LINKS BETWEEN THE ENERGY PROBLEM AND ISRAEL'S SITUATION. ONE THE ONE HAND, IT

IS GOOD THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE APPROACHING EXHAUSTION OF WORLD PETROLEUM RESERVES AND THE NEED TO FIND NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY. BUT, THE OIL SHORTAGE WILL NO DOUBT AFFECT THE PRESIDENT'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY. UNTIL ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY ARE FOUND, THE U.S. WILL PERMIT NO DISRUPTIONS IN THE SUPPLY OF OIL -- MUCH OF WHICH COMES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. THE USG WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED WITH MAINTAINING THE FLOW OF OIL DURING THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. MARCUS RHETORICALLY ASKS WHETHER AT SOME POINT THE U.S. WILL CONSIDER ISRAEL AN "OBSTACLE" IN COPING WITH THE ENERGY PROBLEM.
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Message Attributes

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